

You advocated the introduction of compulsory primary education. You will yourself concede that, in Travancore, the advantages of education are so universally recognised that there is actually no need for compulsory education.

64. Certain needs of the Nagercoil town.

Mr. JOSHUA R. DANIEL (*Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) said that the Nagercoil Municipality had a few pressing needs which could not be met by the Council with its limited resources. The economic condition of the people of that municipality also rendered it not desirable to levy fresh taxes. Hence the need for Government help in the matter.

The first need was a scheme of protected water supply for the Nagercoil town. The town was very congested, the population being 10,000 per square mile and subject to periodical epidemics. The Municipal Council, Nagercoil, had already submitted two alternative schemes to the Government and both of them were extremely cheap, when compared with the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme. The matter should be taken up for earnest consideration by the Government and all attendant investigations completed within a short time. As the Municipal Council could not invest necessary capital, the Government should take the initiative and work out the scheme on a thoroughly commercial basis.

The Nagercoil town was expanding in a haphazard manner and unless such expansion were controlled by a proper system of town-planning, the healthy and sanitary nature of the town would be lost. The working out of the water supply scheme and the drainage problem would be rendered very difficult. It was therefore imperative that town-planning and the drainage schemes should be taken up along with the water supply scheme as being intimately connected with one another. A town-planning expert should be got down for the purpose by the Government and an engineer should also be deputed to prepare the plans and estimates. A portion of the expenditure involved might be recovered from the Municipal Council.

The Municipal Council was spending about Rs. 10,600 for street lighting. It would be desirable to electrify the town. The compact nature of the town would make the initial and recurring expenditure low. There would also be a great demand from private persons for electric supply. An electric scheme for the town would be highly remunerative and a hydro-electric plant at Tadiakarankonam, Ulakaruvi or Muttukuzhi would be more so. Government should take up the work in preference to private enterprise, as the latter would in course of time be an obstruction to hydro-electric developments.

Another need was a telephone system at Nagercoil. With a slight modification and extension, the Kodayar Project telephone system could be made useful to the public and a very remunerative commercial undertaking.

The incidence of excise revenue was highest in the Agastisvaram taluk and in Nagercoil town. There was therefore every justification for removing all toddy and arrack shops from within the municipal limits.

For want of funds, the Municipality was not able further to develop its maternity and child welfare work, or even to continue the existing arrangement. A substantial grant should therefore be awarded to the Municipality by the Government.

Due to the rapid increase of buildings in the town, there was no open ground to be used as playground for the youths and recreation ground for the adults. The site of the Setu Lakshmi Bhai School was being used as a playground before it was acquired for the school. A portion of the extensive spare ground within the school premises might therefore be made available to be used as a playground for the youths of the town.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Daniel, with regard to your representation about the working out of the Nagercoil Water Works Scheme, I may say that this can be taken up for consideration only after the completion of the Trivandrum Water Works Scheme. When the scheme is taken up for consideration, experts will be consulted, if necessary.

You referred to the town-planning scheme. It is, as I said in reply to a representation of another member, for the municipality first to draw up a scheme, and as a member of the Municipal Council you should first move the municipality with a view to have a scheme prepared and placed before the Government.

As regards electrification of the town, I may draw your attention to what is being done or proposed to be done by other mofussil municipalities, especially Kottayam. The Kottayam Municipality, without waiting for the financial assistance of Government, invests some capital in the work and a private agency has undertaken to supply power and a license has been issued to that agency. I am sure that there will be patriotic citizens in Nagercoil also to start such useful and remunerative works.

As regards the extension of the telephone system, it is intended purely for the control of irrigation channels and cannot be extended to serve other needs.

With regard to the removal of the toddy, arrack and foreign liquor shops from within the municipal limits, you know that an experiment is being tried in Changanacherry. That experiment has not been at work long enough for us to draw any useful conclusions. The result is being watched ; and, if satisfactory conclusions are arrived at from the working there, the question of introducing local option in other towns will be taken up for examination.

Then you wanted the utilisation of a portion of the open ground in the premises of the Setu Lakshmi Bhai English High School as a common playground for the youths of the town. Even now the ground available is not sufficient for the needs of the pupils of the school.

Then with regard to the enhancement of the Government grant to your municipality, I may say that your municipality has been working so well and successfully that I do not think that you stand in need of any help from Government.

65. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. KANAKKU TAMPI CHEMPAKARAMAN KESAVAN (*Kalkulam taluk, Group I*) first spoke about the desirability of raising the storage level of the Kodayar Reservoir by three feet. The newly converted lands in Nanjinad were not getting an adequate supply of water. There were also other dry lands which were fit for conversion, but which were not actually converted. The chief reasons for the inadequacy of water for the converted and the non-conversion of the lands which could be converted were (1) insufficiency of water in the Kodayar reservoir, and (2) the narrowness of the Kodayar channels. The first defect could be removed by raising the level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet. The suggestion had been made by the conference held in February 1913 as a result of a representation made at the 9th session of the Assembly. The Government also accepted the proposal and ordered the preparation of a plan and estimate for the work (*Vide* G. O. No. 540/L. R. & F. dated the 13th January 1913). It was not known what further action was taken in the matter. No harm would be done to the dam by the work since even now a temporary bund 5 ft. in height was being put up every year with a view to increase the storage capacity of the lake. The narrowness of the channels was eventually brought about by the under-estimate of the lands to be benefited at the time of construction of the dam. The under-estimate was also the main reason why the proposed Tuckalai branch channel was given up. In actual working it was found that there would not be sufficient water to feed the channel and benefit the adjoining lands. The sale of tank-beds and the consequent increase in the quantity of Kodayar water required for *ayacut* wet lands, the leakage in irrigation channels and the non-restoration of the feeder channels were also other contributory causes for the insufficiency of water supply to the converted lands. The first request of the member was therefore to raise the level of the Kodayar *marukal* by 3 feet, to increase the width of the channels and stop leakages in them and restore the irrigation tanks. The sale of tank-beds should be stopped. The member also referred to the immediate need for closing the breaches of the Nullikulam *marukul* in the Tuckala *pakuthi*. He further requested that his representation might be referred to the Minor Irrigation Committee for enquiry and report.

The next request was for the preservation of the tree-growth in the Kodayar catchment area. Indiscriminate felling of trees by the Forest Department and the clearing of undergrowth should be prevented as they would affect the water supply in the Kodayar reservoir. Felling of trees might make the surrounding soil loose and the rain water might wash it down to the reservoir thereby silting it up.